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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, August 25, 1967

FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D C -- Ramon Montalvo Jr of Weslaco has been named to the Department of Agriculture Civil Rights Committee, Rep Kika de la Garza said today. Secretary of Agriculture Orville L Freeman officially announced this recent appointment to the USDA's Citizens Advisory Committee on Civil Rights recently.

Mr Montalvo, prominent Valley businessman, a former agriculture teacher, farmer and professional farm manager, now heads an insurance company in Weslaco, Rep de la Garza said.

A native of the Valley, he received a BS degree in vocational agriculture from the Texas College of Arts and Industries at Kingsville in 1939. He taught vocational agriculture in Edinburg, received an Army commission in World War II, worked as Assistant Farm Manager of Rio Farms, Inc., and then taught vocational agriculture to veterans under the GI Bill of Rights.

In 1952 he bought a farm in the Mid-Valley and farmed until 1959 when he started an insurance agency now operated with two partners. He is married and father of 5 children.

The 16-member Civil Rights Committee includes private citizens with varied backgrounds and interests. They review Agriculture Department activities and recommend changes that might be necessary to achieve compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Rep de la Garza explained. The South Texan added that Secretary Freeman said "The committee helps assure that federal financial assistance for USDA programs is free from discrimination based on race, color or national origin."

Other committee members are Dr. Robert C. Edwards, president, Clemson University; Emmett Peter, Jr., associate editor, Lakeland, Fla., Ledger; Dr. Elmer Ellis, president, University of Missouri; Rev. John B. Evans, member of the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education; Dr. Charles G. Gomillion, dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Tuskegee Institute; Cecil Newman, editor, Minneapolis Spokesman; Dr. Robert H. Montgomery, former political economist, University of Texas; Jake J. Simmons, Jr., president, Oklahoma NAACP Conference; Lionel S. Steinberg, farmer, Thermal, Calif; Dr. Vivian W. Henderson, president, Clark College; Father Louis J. Twomey, director, Institute of Human Relations, Loyola University of the South; Ralph E. McGill, publisher, Atlanta Constitution; Clay L. Cochran, executive director, International Self-Help Housing Associates; Dr. Aaron Henry, president, Mississippi NAACP Conference; Capus Waynick, former U.S. Ambassador to Colombia. Chairman is Kenneth M. Birkhead, Assistant to Secretary Freeman, and Executive Secretary is William M. Seabron, Assistant to Secretary Freeman for Civil Rights Coordination.